

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1, 2, 4-11, and 13-16 are now present in the application. Claims 3 and 12 have been cancelled. Claims 10, 11 and 13-15 have been withdrawn. Claims 1 and 10 are independent. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 3 has been cancelled for the purpose of expediting prosecution. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of claim 4 is clearly shown in FIG. 3. In the illustrated embodiment shown in FIG. 3 and discussed on page 6, lines 3-25, the four grooves (1101, 1102, 1103 and 1104) start from the end of the orifice (11) and extend to different directions (up, down, left and right) to form as a "+" shape.

Accordingly, all pending claims comply with the enablement requirement. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, are therefore respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-9 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Chou, U.S. Patent No. 6,719,418. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites a combination of elements including "a cover element positioning above the recess, having ink supply channel for providing a shortest path to

supply the ink to the recess in a high efficient way, and an opening within the area of the recess for allowing the air bubbles enter into the pen”. Applicants respectfully submit that the above combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed nor suggested by the reference relied on by the Examiner.

Chou discloses an underpressure regulating mechanism for inkjet pens, including a needle 13 with a needle end 1301 to seal the port 12 (see FIGs. 2-6). The Examiner referred to the needle end 1301 as the cover element of claim 1. However, the needle end 1301 does not have any “ink supply channel for providing a shortest path to supply the ink to the recess” as recited in claim 1. In fact, the ink 30 never goes close to the needle end 1301 (see FIGs. 2-18).

In addition, Chou also fails to teach the needle end 1301 has “an opening within the area of the recess for allowing the air bubbles enter into the pen” recited in claim 1. Chou merely discloses that when the underpressure reaches an upper limit, the needle 13 and the needle end 1301 are forced to retract and let ambient air flow into the cartridge 10 (into the air bag 15) through the port 12 (see FIG. 4; col. 4, lines 19-26). In other words, the needle end 1301 itself does not have an opening for allowing the air bubbles to enter into the cartridge 10. In fact, the air enters into the cartridge 10 via the port 12.

Since Chou fails to teach each and every limitation of independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 and its dependent claims clearly define over the teachings of Chou. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

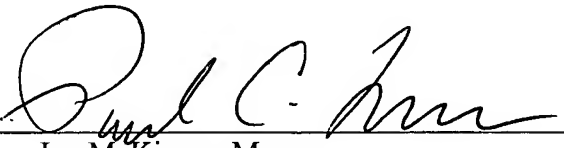
It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Joe McKinney Muncy, Registration No. 32,334 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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